

In the Claims

Claims 1 – 6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for making a ferritic stainless steel sheet, comprising the steps of:

hot-rolling a steel slab comprising about 0.01 percent by mass or less of carbon; about 1.0 percent by mass or less of silicon; about 1.5 percent by mass or less of manganese; about 11 to about 23 percent by mass of chromium; about 0.06 percent by mass or less of phosphorous; about 0.03 percent by mass or less of sulfur; about 1.0 percent by mass or less of aluminum; about 0.04 percent by mass of nitrogen; about 0.0005 to about 0.01 percent by mass of boron; 0.004 to 0.3 percent by mass or less of vanadium; about 0.8 percent by mass or less of niobium and/or about 1.0 percent by mass or less of titanium wherein $18 \leq \frac{Nb}{(C+N)} + 2 \left(\frac{Ti}{(C+N)} \right) \leq 60$; and the balance being iron and unavoidable impurities to form a hot-rolled sheet;

annealing the hot-rolled sheet to form an annealed sheet;

cold-rolling the annealed sheet either once or at least two times with intermediate annealing to form a cold-rolled sheet; and

finish-annealing and pickling the cold rolled sheet to form a pickled steel sheet containing crystal grains having an average crystal grain diameter of about $40 \mu\text{m}$ or less; and

has skin-pass rolling the pickled sheet with skin-pass rolls having a roughness of Ra of 0.05 to $1 \mu\text{m}$ at a reduction rate of 0.05 to 10% to obtain a sheet having an average surface roughness of about $0.3 \mu\text{m}$ or less.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the steel slab further comprises at least one of about 0.1 to about 1.0 percent by mass of copper; about 0.05 to about 0.2 percent by

mass of cobalt; and about 0.1 to about 2.0 percent by mass of nickel, wherein $0.05 < (0.55 \times \text{Cu} + 0.85 \times \text{Co} + \text{Ni}) < 0.30$.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the steel slab further comprises about 0.0007 to about 0.0030 percent by mass of calcium.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the steel slab further comprises about 0.0007 to about 0.0030 percent by mass of calcium.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) The method according to one of claims 7 to 10, further comprising forming a resin coating film having a thickness of about $2.0 \mu\text{m}$ on a surface of the ferritic steel sheet.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the resin coating film comprises a urethane resin.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the resin coating film comprises an epoxy resin.

15. (New) A method for making a ferritic stainless steel sheet, comprising the steps of: hot-rolling a steel slab comprising about 0.01 percent by mass or less of carbon; about 1.0 percent by mass or less of silicon; about 1.5 percent by mass or less of manganese; about 11 to about 23 percent by mass of chromium; about 0.06 percent by mass or less of phosphorous; about 0.03 percent by mass or less of sulfur; about 1.0 percent by mass or less of aluminum; about 0.04 percent by mass of nitrogen; about 0.0005 to about 0.01 percent by mass of boron; 0.004 to about 0.3 percent by mass of vanadium; about 0.8 percent by mass or less of niobium and/or about 1.0 percent by mass or less of titanium wherein $18 \leq \text{Nb}/(\text{C}+\text{N})+2(\text{Ti}/(\text{C}+\text{N})) \leq 60$; and the balance being iron and unavoidable impurities to form a hot-rolled sheet;

annealing the hot-rolled sheet to form an annealed sheet;

cold-rolling the annealed sheet either once or at least two times with intermediate annealing to form a cold-rolled sheet; finish-annealing and pickling the cold rolled sheet to form a pickled steel sheet containing crystal grains having an average crystal grain diameter of about 40 μm or less; and skin-pass rolling the pickled sheet to obtain a sheet having an average surface roughness of about 0.3 μm or less.